

# The Gateway Special Strike and Election Issue

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1972, FOUR PAGES.

## Candidates state case at rally despite heckling

Roughly eight hundred people turned up in the SUB Theatre yesterday, to hear the candidates for Friday's election give their election promises and accusations and then to air a few pertinent questions:

As the Theatre filled, the air of expectancy rose, so that by the time the candidates filed up on stage (twenty minutes late), the pitch of the meeting was rather high. This was manifested in the omnipresent heckling which characterized the rally.

Speaking order was determined by lots drawn last week. The presidential candidates with their running mates, spoke first.

"The most serious things that are facing students are the costs of increasing education and a greater need to rely on student loans. A solution to this is the interaction at all levels with the provincial government. We would work for this." Vice-president candidate Rob Spraggins stated in introducing presidential candidate Gerry Riskin.

Riskin then talked of the need for the Students' Union to provide activities students want to get involved in. "We wonder why students don't get involved but how many people want to work on a committee that studies the color of washrooms in SUB?" he asked. "I'm talking about an atmosphere in which people want to work," he said.

He said that GFC reps are totally ineffective in passing legislation at GFC. They suffer from a lack of organization and a failure of selling their ideas to the faculty members. This is necessary for effective GFC representation.

Rapid transit is a very good idea for solving the parking problems but Students' Council must work to get student representatives on these committees, he said.

Riskin then spoke of entertainment. He suggested the various western Canadian universities block book big name groups like Chicago. He said also that Canadian politicians and the provincial government would be more than happy to come to the campus, and the Students' Union, in co-operation with television stations could sponsor these people.

We're not going to make a lot of dynamic promises because "If we make a lot of dynamic promises and the other candidates make a lot of dynamic promises then we'll end up with an administration like we've seen in the present tenure", explained Saffron Shandro, vice-presidential running mate for the AnnMcRae slate.

Shandro felt that decentralization is one of the major issues today. With the increasing size of our universities then we must spread the power out rather than centralizing it in the hands of a few.

He said that there should be a pub on campus, perhaps in

Athabasca Hall.

In examining the problems of summer employment, Shandro said the public outside the university is very ignorant of the people on campus. He felt that it is up to the Students' Union to educate the employers about how students can benefit them in summer jobs and full-time employment.

Shandro felt strongly about an FM license for CKSR-Radio. He felt that the student access to the public would be invaluable.

Ann McRae explained that she was not going to lay down a specific platform because it was an injustice to students on the basis that "unless the voter can slug through the specific to find the general he will have no idea of what policies the reps will adopt on the innumerable issues which are not covered on a rigid platform."

"I hope you will not consider this divergence a cop-out" she said, "but I am unable to be anything but wholly honest."

She felt that the purpose of the Students' Union is to provide for students the necessities they cannot obtain on their own, not only in the realm of services but in representation as well.

"The Students' Union is now the victim of a credibility gap," she said.

The current lack of interest in the election in proof that the Students' Union is the victim of a credibility gap between themselves and students. It must no prove, beyond doubt, that it is viable. It must now prove, beyond doubt, that it has the best interests of the students in mind at all times.

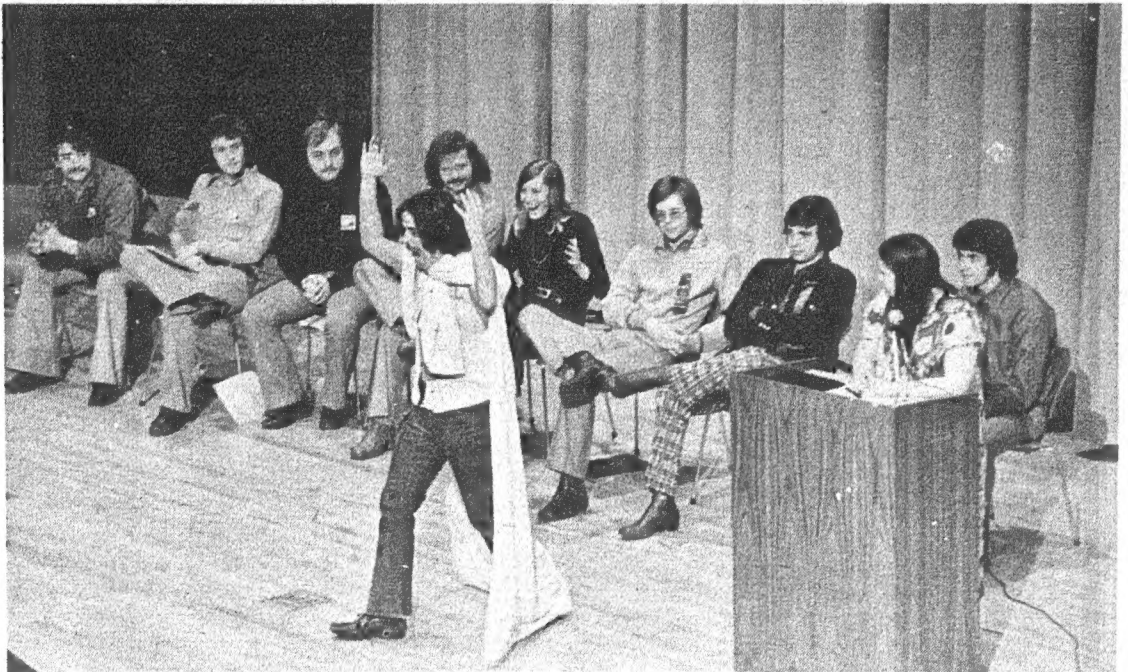
The Gateway issue is one aspect of this she said. Any Students' Council that allows the situation to arise whereby that communication is suppressed does not have in mind the best interests of the students. To push a principle to the point of harm to the students themselves is selfish McRae said.

Doug Black, speaking first for the Black-Biltek slate, said that he and Biltek were very concerned with what has happened over the past week and were concerned with the direction the Gateway is going.

Black stressed the council experience of their slate. Since he and Biltek have served on the Executive they have a firm idea of the SU operates. "We've come a long way and we've started," he said. The groundwork has been laid for next year such as the Academic Affairs office which is now operating smoothly.

Biltek reiterated the fact that a great deal of work has been done this year and that said that they would continue in that direction using it as a base for student concern. He mentioned the support that was given to his second term reading week proposal and as one area where students were really concerned.

Biltek said it was important for the Students' Union to talk to the provincial government; to use its influence and resources



Young Socialists' Chris Bearchell copes with the guerilla theatre of the Silly Slate at yesterday's Election Rally. Disruptions, not only from the Silly Slate, were frequent. Presidential and Executive Vice Presidential candidates looking on are: (from left to right) Mark Priegart Doug Black, Dave Biltek, Saffron Shandro, Ann McRae, Rob Spraggins, Gerry Riskin, and Returning Officer, Paul Brunnen. Is there anything to be learned from the expressions on these faces?

on the civic and provincial governments. He said the provincial government is now prepared to listen to their proposal of an Educational Opportunity Bank in which tuition fees and a living allowance would be paid to the students. He would be able to pay back this when he is best able to afford it.

"We can't do it alone, we have to know what you're thinking and together we can do it", Biltek concluded.

Mark Priegart and Chris Bearchell were the last presidential candidates to be heard from. Priegart said that the Young Socialists, who are running as a slate, are the only candidates with a "clearly stated political platform." He outlined the three basic aims of the Young Socialist candidates— an anti-war university, a women's liberation university and a university with student-faculty-worker control. "We want to change the university from one in which it is a training ground for government bureaucrats to one that is an organizing ground for organizing leadership for student movements around basic social questions."

Chris Bearchell, Priegert's running mate spoke of the need for abortion repeal. She pointed out that none of the other candidates had mentioned it and urged candidates to support the referendum. She urged students to vote in favour saying that it should be every women's right to control her own body. This remark was greeted by various comments from the audience such as "go on the pill" and "keep your legs together."

Bearchell talked about the streaming of women into certain faculties and the discouragement of women into others. She said that a Young Socialist executive would fight against this and would work for credited women study programs and increased day care facilities.

Patrick Delaney and Wayne Madden, and Linda Gaboury were the three vice-presidential (academic) candidates. Gaboury, however, was unable to appear because of illness. Delaney felt that it was not his duty to interfere with the other positions. He said that as the co-ordinator of student representatives he has seen that the representation has been lousy—from General Faculties Council down to the department level. He felt there

were two reasons for this—the quality of reps and the inadequate back-up from Students' Council. He said that the Academic vice-president must be prepared to go to Students' Council and recommend that students reps who are not doing their jobs properly be replaced. He said also that the secretariat which was set up earlier this year should work to make student representation more effective.

Wayne Madden, the next candidate to speak said that a system of forgivable loans to students should be implemented. Grants to non-treaty Indians and lower income people to allow them to come to university should be made as well.

"If the SU wants autonomy for undergraduate associations then there should be a system of grants set up for them. Council should be willing to cut the cord. Madden said.

Barry McLaren Vice-presidential (services) candidates defined his job as a sort of "Minister of Culture." In this role the person should work with and not against the communications media such as Gateway and CKSR, he said. McLaren said he agreed with the idea of forums and discussions but questioned the relevancy of some of them to university students. He suggested instead a session for first year university students simply to help them find their way around the campus. McLaren felt that the Students' Union should be taking a stronger role in encouraging U of A bachelor of fine arts students in art, music, and drama as well as playing a greater role in the cultural activities of the Edmonton area as a whole.

Larry Panych the Young Socialist candidate stressed the need for the struggle for an anti-war university. The U of A is part of a military-industrial complex and conducts Defense Research Board work on campus. Panych said it is important for students to squeeze money from the provincial government in putting pressure by mass action for the things students cannot buy themselves.

Kirk Mitchell said he would like to see forums which would more effectively reach more students. He felt that rapid transit is not the answer because it won't solve the traffic problems for next year. He suggested instead express buses

from areas of the city such as northeast Edmonton which at present have poor service to campus.

Mitchell added that the students' unions from across Canada should present a proposal to the federal government with the idea of government study on long-term job prospects for university students.

"This campus doesn't have to be ugly", said Beth Kuhnke. She felt that the Students' Union should lobby with the University Planning Commission not to tear against the tearing up of any more green areas on campus such as the quad. The

Kuhnke commented that for forums students should stop thinking of themselves and should set an example in the community. This could mean involving the public in forums subjects such as ecology for instance. She said that even on campus ecology could be a very big thing and students could help the movements in encouraging the recycling of waste products.

Vice-presidential candidate (administration) Gary West, said that he would work to continue the present SU services and perhaps expand them. To do this he felt that the Students' Union would have to apply continual pressure on the provincial government for more money. West also advocated applied pressure to city council for improved bus service to campus.

Don Wiley, the YS candidate stressed the fact that while the university is open to corporations as a training ground for management personnel but not to the trade unions as a place for training shop stewards and union organizers. The YS movement would align itself with the woman's movement, the trade unions, and Red Power. "We would be more than book-keepers and administrators but student leaders who would organize students around important things that affect their lives," summed up Wiley.

### Student council reps

#### Elections

Fri. (Feb. 25)

Nominations close

Tue. (Feb. 22)



# ALL WE DID WAS ASK QUESTIONS...

*Contrary to popular opinion, it is possible for GATEWAY to present an unbiased view of an issue. We can do this by recognizing our natural bias, and guarding against it in our presentation.*

*With this in mind, we asked ourselves the following questions, which may well be similar to those any concerned student may ask him/herself about the candidates for SU President and Executive Vice-President. We then answered these questions by looking at what each candidate has said at rallies and on their platforms. Then we rated them on a 1 to 10 scale.*

*Since some questions seemed to be more crucial than others, we then weighted each question by a factor of: (1), marginal; (2), important; and (3) very important. We suggest that you try this yourself -- and VOTE your results.*

*This is not GATEWAY speaking; we simply asked the questions. The candidates themselves provided the answers. But don't take our word for it; do your own survey, using the questions we have provided if you like.*

*One more thing; we tried to assign values on the question of "image presented" -- was it issues or personalities. We couldn't really find an answer, but we suggest that we could all check the posters and campaign material to see who relied on a flashy image and who resented clear-cut issues to the student body. If you elect an image, "what you see is what you get."*

## COMMUNICATION

**How ready are the candidates to communicate with students even if it means coming out of Council Executive Offices and seeking us out, rather than us going to them? Weighting factor: 3.**

### RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"It is the responsibility of council to go to the students and seek out their ideas." From their campaign platform.

"I see no reason why we shouldn't hold Council meetings in SUB cafeteria if it means involving students." Riskin at the rally Wednesday afternoon.

### MCRAE-SHANDRO

"There are many other (platform planks) that must be considered. We are willing at any time to discuss them with you." platform.

### PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

(Young Socialist)

"We think that the only way that we are going to overcome all the problems facing us is by working together in mass democratic action... The students' council ought to get out of the office and into mass meetings, rallies and discussions." platform.

### BILTEK-BLACK

"It's up to you. Involve us." Campaign slogan. "It's really up to you." platform.

## COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

**Does the candidate see the university at part of a larger social unit -- the city of Edmonton and the province of Alberta? Weighting factor: 2.**

### RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"The purpose of the university is education and students want to hear famous personalities in the Arts and in Politics on campus. These people can be brought in for free by having a sponsored "HOT SEAT" type television show. The possibilities look good." platform.

### MCRAE-SHANDRO

They support CKSR going FM to provide a youth oriented alternative to commercial radio in the Edmonton area.

### PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

"The university must become a base for social change, researching and promoting

action on the problems facing the majority of people in Canadian society." platform.

### BILTEK-BLACK

"Dave organized a mailing program to the Hon. Mr. Chretien from the U of A students on the (Cold Lake Indian Education) issue." From their 10 page campaign booklet.

## STUDENT SERVICES

**Certain commonly used student services, such as Room At The Top, Student Art Gallery and Music Listening Room operate at a loss. Does the candidate favor continuation or even expansion of these valuable facilities despite this fact? Weighting factor: 3.**

### RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

Their support on hiring big name entertainers to perform for campus audiences indicates that they are not afraid to spend money to satisfy student desires.

### MCRAE-SHANDRO

Their involvement in these things (Soup Kitchen in RATT and CKSR) speaks for itself.

### PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

They favor the maintenance and the expansion of these facilities, without consideration of the profit motive.

### BLACK-BILTEK

Their past record has been one of attempts to cut back on unprofitable services regardless of their popularity with the student body, e.g. resolutions in council to shut down RATT; suggested "alternative means of financing" for Student Art Gallery and Music Listening Room.

## EXPERIENCE

**Have the candidates held positions on grassroots organizations on this campus? How well do they relate to us? Weighting factor: 1.**

### RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

Both have been commerce reps on council. Riskin was a member of Student Legal Services which provides free legal services and advice to all students. Riskin, presently serving as law rep on council, also served on the executive of the commerce undergraduate society and is a past VGW executive. Spraggins is

commerce rep on council and served on the seminar committee.

### MCRAE-SHANDRO

McRae has served as science rep in 69-70, is manager of the Soup Kitchen in Room At The Top, as well as being involved and concerned in a number of student-staff organizations.

### PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

They are involved in numerous community activities, related but not confined to the university campus. They downplay its importance.

### BILTEK-BLACK

Black has served on FIW. Otherwise, they have served almost exclusively on higher level committees which generally tend to lack direct communication with the average student.

## UNIVERSITY-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**Would this candidate be able to provide an effective and realistic lobbying force in our interest with regard to issues in which the provincial and federal governments are involved, i.e. grants versus loans, student housing, transportation, etc.? Weighting factor: 2.**

### RISKIN-SPRAGGINS

"With a new provincial government, we have an unprecedented opportunity for cooperation. There was strong Conservative support on campus and the government will go to great lengths to maintain that support." platform.

### MCRAE-SHANDRO

They answer only in the most general terms. "Student voice being heard. Strong effective representation." platform.

### PRIEGERT-BEARCHELL

The Young Socialists do not feel that governments will respond to students needs unless they feel threatened by a student body mobilized as a political force.

### BLACK-BILTEK

Biltek may have some connections on the federal level as a result of his work in the Hu Harries Liberal campaign; however, Education is controlled by the new Conservative government.

## Our analysis

*This is not an objective article—it is an editorial. We have tried to be objective about the qualifications of the presidential candidates in another part of this paper.*

*The following is based on our experience of all the candidates in this election—on our past dealings with them and on their performance in this campaign.*

*We do not state our preferences here. It is simply our analysis of the candidates qualifications. However, we know many of them well.*

*We have attempted to state our preferences as fairly as possible but our analysis is obviously not objective because we are intimately involved in the outcome of this election.*

## FOR PRESIDENT

**McRae/Shandro-McRae** has previously worked with us as the former Secretary of the Students' Union. We felt she was concerned with our welfare as well as providing maximum service to the students. She has been involved with many other student organizations as well as with the SUB employees and we feel she has real concern for, and is willing to work with, these people.

McRae is not particularly dynamic. While she takes strong stands on issues, she seems to have trouble stating her positions.

Shandro we don't know very well. We hear from our friends at CKSR that he has organized the news and sports departments extremely well and it seems he would make a very competent administrator.

We wonder about their superficial election platform. In fact, we believe they would do far more than is stated there.

**Priegert/Bearchell**—The Young Socialist candidates provide a credible alternative to all the other candidates.

They have presented us with a strong platform dealing with specific issues of social importance. In fact, they are the only ones who have provided such a strong platform.

If elected, they would undoubtedly change the direction of the Students' Union to a more out-wardly concerned, socially conscious organization.

The YS has had success in programs such as the campaign for the repeal of abortion laws and the Amchitka protest.

We feel the YS is a credible alternative if we want to change the direction of our Union.

**Riskin/Spraggins**—Riskin has served very competently for two years on Students' Council. He has, many times, spoken for issues that are of real student concern.

However, Riskin seems to us to be something of a fence-sitter.

Rob Spraggins is one of the few members of the present council whom we have real respect for.

When we invited the councillors to our offices to learn about the problems we face, Spraggins was one of the few who bothered to show. He lead (with Riskin) the walkout from the Students' Union Finance Board this year after it became apparent that the Board was being too easily over-ruled by the present Executive and that it was not serving the interests of the students.

**Biltek/Black**—Everyone probably knows that we, as well as other student organizations, have had disagreements with these people all year. We think it sufficient to say that if we were happy with the way the executive performed this year, we should elect them.

## FOR VICE-PRESIDENT (ACADEMIC)

**Patrick Delaney**—Delaney has no experience that we know of, in the Students' Union.

He says he would recommend the replacement of any student representative on General Faculties Council "who are not doing the job for which they were elected." That's fine. Except that the Student GFC reps are elected separately from the Students' Council and have no formal ties with Students' Council. It is absurd to assume that Students' Council has any, or even perhaps should have any, power to replace or remove any elected student member of GFC.

We think Delaney would be an ineffective Vice-President.

**Linda Gaboury**—We think it unfortunate that Gaboury could not make it to the Election Rally because of illness.

Linda has been active in politics on a provincial level. She is a woman who is concerned with the special problems faced by women in this country, and on other occasions has been a knowledgeable, confident speaker.

Our experience with her has indicated that she is outspoken on many issues which concern students.

She has had wide experience with involvement with issues and we think she would be a strong, competent Vice-President.

**Wayne Madden**—Madden was a student councillor last year and was very ineffective. But Madden is very honest and completely sincere in his desire to serve the student body, and his motivation in this regard would help him overcome some of his deficiencies, if he was to serve under a strongly "student-oriented" president.

## VICE-PRESIDENT (ADMINISTRATION)

**Gary West**—Gary West says "my approaches to these and other problems will not be constricted by a political or personal view." We would like to ask him how he is going to achieve this. Does he presume to tell us that he would totally submit himself to the wishes of the students and forget his own experience and motivations. We don't think it possible for anyone to do that.

He has, however served on Students' Council this year but he has not been very vocal.

**Don Wiley**—Don Wiley, the Young Socialist candidate has strong views about the direction the Union should go, yet he has shown in the past—as an organizer within other campus clubs—that he is flexible enough to work well with those whose views he does not share. While he has had little experience with Council, he is a good administrator in his capacity with YS, and would do an effective job as Vice-President (Administrative).

# Election Platforms

## VICE PRESIDENT SERVICES

### Beth Kuhnke

The vice president (services) plays a double role on students' council. As a member of the executive, she is instrumental in both the formulation and activation of council policies. As the director of services, she must co-ordinate a great network of student functions, including the day care center student housing, student employment, entertainment, special forums and teach-ins, the SUB art gallery, crafts center, and music listening room, student cinema, and the Students' Union Building.

It is evident that the position involves a heavy work load. After taking nine full courses this year and maintaining a first-class standing in these, I feel I have learned to budget my time for maximum effectiveness. I also feel I have gained valuable experience this year as science rep on council, and as a member of various student committees and a GFC ad hoc committee. It becomes clear in working with students' union that experience with the council is an essential prerequisite for understanding an executive job such as that of vice president (services).

From my five years recreation-leadership experience with the City of Edmonton, and also as a woman, I feel I can understand the issues and problems concerned with the operation of a day care center. I firmly believe that Student Health Services must be continued on campus, and that campus must get a student pub.

I spent the first year of my university life as a resident of Lister Hall, and have since joined the ranks of the student house-and-apartment-renters. In this light I feel I understand many of the issues involved in student housing problems, and I am anxious to work towards better student housing in the capacity of vice pres (services).

As I have been financially independent for five years, I feel that I can sympathize and effectively work in the area of student employment.

I have been involved in various clubs on campus, and I have a keen interest in many sports. I also enjoy such hobbies as writing (poetry, music, fiction), painting, macrame, and singing. I have been involved with several folk and lounge groups around Edmonton and thus, understand the entertainment scene fairly well.

I endorse the idea of running a student shuttle bus service through campus, connecting major ETS routes. This would encourage more people to use public transportation, somewhat reducing pollution on campus (a step in the right direction). At the same time, I realize that not all parts of the city are accessible by bus, and that car-users daily face the problem of parking. I am concerned that Saskatchewan Drive was closed to parking west of 116 Street, and I feel that the two-hour parking zones west of campus are a farce. These require change

that I will work towards.

I am also concerned that U of A is reputed to have an ugly campus, and I will promote full utilization of available resources for beautifying campus. As an executive member I will lobby with the U planning office to keep the open space we have left, and I will urge them to focus their attention on the creation of student parks.

As vice president (services) I will work to ensure effective operation of a free day care center and student housing and employment services. I will emphasize an intensive program of free culture via rallies, forums, teach-ins, and music and art on campus, and I will ensure that these programs are extended to the entire student body. I will work to keep campus supplied with quality (student-priced) entertainment.

In short, my efforts will center on higher quality services, maximum and efficient use of available facilities, and expansion of both services and facilities to accommodate the growing need for these.

students' VOTE Beth KUHNKE

### Kirk Mitchell

The nature of the position Vice-President Services is orientated towards meeting student needs. For this reason I am adopting a flexible policy to meet the needs of the students. I have given preliminary thought to:

1. Housing - my experience on G.C.P. Housing Committee, my already close liason with the Housing Director will help in formulating policy.

2. Entertainment - a Pub in SUB is needed and I would encourage "big name" entertainment.

3. Education and Culture - As a member of the Forums Committee, I endorse greater emphasis on & frequency of Forums. Also the cultural facilities could be expanded.

4. Employment Service - An all-out program is very much overdue here: trimester system, study of employment prospects for graduates & greater student placement.

5. Day Care Centre - Priority give on basis of need.

6. Transportation - Special E.T.S. bus service over the Capilano freeway to U of A to meet the needs of students in North East Edmonton. Similar service could be established for all outlying areas.

The decisions, policies & consequent actions would be carried out with the ratification of yourselves, the students by means of referendums or through your elected representatives. The Students' Union can work for you the student with services by & for the students.

...Vice-President (Services)  
Kirk Mitchell...

### Barry McLaren

The Students' Union is faced with rising costs for such purposes as building maintenance and wages. With a limited income this forces a reduction in student oriented programs. One function of the vice-president services would be to investigate new programs and sources of revenue which would permit the Union to expand. For example, the union could enter a new program of aiding the development of local culture. A summer folk music/art fair might serve as an incentive to local art and help bring revenue to the Union. The Union should take more positive action in giving exposure to the artistic work being done on this campus (art, music, drama).

The activity of the Union regarding communications with the students should be re-examined. It is imperative that there be encouragement of, and not conflict with, student media. The forums and discussions should be made more relevant to the student areas of interest.

An examination of the services provided to students should be made. Perhaps a better utilization of facilities within the building (theatre, billiards, vending) would help remedy the financial situation which threatens the closing or alteration of our art gallery. Also, policy and investigation must be made as to how the Housing Project will be run. A remedy to the Day Care situation has begun to develop but is only the beginning of correction. The Day Care program must be carried on and expanded.

Finally, a statement of my "philosophy" A move must be made away from the sort of impersonal bureaucratic operation of the students' union which has manifested itself in such actions as the temporary resistance of the unionization of SUB workers and the Gazette situation. I feel that I represent a viewpoint which is different from those of past "executive" types and is necessary to reinject some sort of validity into the union.

Barry McLaren

**The Young Socialists are also running a candidate for VP (services). Larry Panych's platform is published in yesterday's paper on page two.**

The Gateway wishes to apologize to Beth Kuhnke for not printing her full VP(services) election platform in yesterday's paper. Due to the confusion and difficulty of maintaining an effective strike organisation we inadvertently mislaid her copy. We have reprinted the election platforms of all VP(services) candidates along with her's to give the readers a chance to compare all alternatives at once.

## The preferential ballot and how to use it

Executive elections will be held on a preferential ballot, and it is important that these be used properly.

On a preferential ballot, voters can either mark the candidate of their choice with an 'X' beside the name, or by writing the number '1' beside it.

**BALLOTS MARKED WITH AN X ARE COUNTED ONLY ONCE.**

If the voter marks candidates on a preferential basis, his second and perhaps third choices will be counted if his favored candidate is defeated. The candidate he wants least to win should be marked '4' while second and third choices are marked '2' and '3'.

Doesn't that sound easy?

If candidate 'A' wins more than 50 per cent of the votes marked 'X' or '1', he has a plurality and wins on the first ballot.

If no candidate has a plurality, the candidate with the fewest votes is dropped from the ballots and his ballots are counted again and given to the

candidates marked as second choices.

If after this is done there is still no candidate with a plurality the lowest candidate is again dropped. Ballots on which he was marked first choice are counted for second choices, and ballots he may have received as second choices after the first candidate was dropped are counted for their third preference.

The total votes never exceed the number of ballots cast.

If there are four candidates in the election, there will now be only two candidates left, so there will either be a tie or one will have a clear majority.

If you marked your ballot with an X, it might as well have been thrown away unless you voted for the winner the first time.

Don't waste your ballot. Vote preferentially. And remember to mark your least favorite candidate '4'. The fourth choices will not be counted, so you will never vote for them.

Biltek—Black **INDICATE**

McRae—Shandro **ALL**

Priegert—Bearehell **FOUR CHOICES.**

Riskin—Spraggins

**EVERY ONE COUNTS.**



# McKenzie Says

Dear Student,

In the light of many of the allegations contained in Tuesday's Gateway, I think that it is important that I clarify some of the reasons why Council chose Terri Jackson as Editor-in-chief over the Gateway's choice.

1) Terri was the *only* candidate for Editor who acknowledged a *responsibility to the readers* of the paper for what goes in the Gateway. Other indicated a responsibility to their staff, to their consciences, but not to the people who pay for the paper — the students.

2) It was the *unanimous opinion of the Personnel Board* that Terri Jackson should be chosen as Editor. This opinion emerged as the result of a three-hour interview with her, the same interview in which The Gateway staff participated.

3) Mrs. Jackson was the *best qualified* of all the applicants. She has had experience in high school, university, and professional newspapers and has received several awards for journalistic excellence — something which would probably make her anathema to most of the Gateway staff.

4) Council felt that appointing The Gateway's choice would perpetuate for another year the small clique who have been running The Gateway. *Students are obviously dissatisfied with the paper and want a change.* Just last week, Students' Council was presented with a petition signed by over 1300 students demanding that we fire the Editor of The Gateway and all the staff. A survey conducted last year by The Gateway itself revealed that 56% of the student body felt that it was a bad paper.

*Was it an undemocratic decision?* The claim that Council overturned the "democratic" decision of The Gateway ignores the very nature of democracy. The Gateway is a *student* newspaper and is responsible to student's for its actions. The only present mechanism for exercising that control is through Students' Council. Even the Canadian University Press recognizes the right of a Students' Council to choose the Editor of the campus paper. If Gateway can get together to choose an Editor without any responsibility to the students at large, perhaps this year's Students' Council should be able to choose next year's President without having to go to the electorate for an accounting. The Gateway receives \$19,000 in student money every year. The staff must be accountable to more than just themselves for the way in which they perform.

*"Anyone who wants can work for The Gateway" - If that is the case, why do people like Gary Draper who volunteer for the Gateway suddenly find the conclusion to their articles deleted because they run contrary to established Gateway bias? Why do people work on other papers like Campus Lyfe rather than work on The Gateway? Because anyone who does not agree with the narrow views of the present staff will find that their articles are not printed, or that important parts are deleted. Also, many people justifiable do not want to associate with the present group.*

*"Terri Jackson is a Puppet Editor because she owes her job to Council."* If that is true, then every Gateway editor is a puppet because they were appointed by Council. The truth of the matter is that every Gateway editor, once appointed, is substantially free from *any* control by Council. Besides, the Editor will hold office *next* year. This year's Council won't even be around to exercise control. Some puppet!

In conclusion, if you people want Students' Council to merely rubber-stamp Gateway's decision, if you want to perpetuate the small inbred clique who control the paper, then you deserve the kind of Gateway you have been getting this year. Council's decision to appoint Terri Jackson was not an easy one, and we knew at the time that we would be in for a lot of criticism. But we made the decision in the honest hope that next year's Gateway would be a better paper. We know what kind of job the present staff have done on The Gateway. Perhaps it's time we gave someone new a chance.

Yours sincerely,

Don McKenzie  
President

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## VICE-PRESIDENT (SERVICES)

**Beth Kuhnke**—Many of Kuhnke's ideas seem to be ill-formed but she seems to have the best interest of the student at heart.

*She served on Students' Council this year but did not accomplish very much.*

*She does seem, as her posters suggest, to be "ingenious".*

**Barry McLaren**—Before he resigned in frustration, McLaren was the most outspoken Student Councillor this year. He seems not to be afraid of strongly stating his views even if they will have adverse political effect on him.

*In the past, he strongly supported many student organizations in their pleas for money from council and in their right to remain independent of council.*

*He resigned from Council because of his view that it was not debating issues to their fullest extent and carefully examining the effects of their decisions on students.*

**Larry Panych**—Panych is the chief organizer for the U of A Vietnam Action Committee and, in that position, has organized much support around anti-war issues.

*He has the ability to constructively organize students to provide interesting forums and shows which is essentially the job of a person in this position.*

*He is running as a Young Socialist.*

**Kirk Mitchell**—We don't know Mitchell very well but he seems to us to have presented a very superficial and unworkable platform.

*He says he would "encourage 'big name' entertainment but he doesn't tell us how. He says "I endorse greater emphasis on a frequency of forums". But he doesn't tell us what kind of forums these will be.*

# Beal Replies

In reply to the statement by Students' Union President, Don McKenzie, which circulated and which appears opposite, I would like to make the following observations: his statement paragraph by paragraph.

1. This is an outright lie. Ron Yakimchuk stated this paper's major responsibility is to its readers and its conscience. Jim Carter stated strongly that the paper's responsibility was to students. Ross Harvey stated it less strongly. McKenzie was not at the screening session of the Personnel Board and Gateway interviewed the candidates (Gateway, Personnel Board and Council have not interviewed them before or since). His statements about what any candidates said when they were interviewed is based on second-hand knowledge.

2. It was the democratic decision of the Gateway staff that Yakimchuk be selected. In past, Council has affirmed this staff's right to select an editor based on their knowledge of the paper and the work they put into it. There was no reason to refuse the staff request.

The Students' Council dismissed the Gateway's opinion in ten minutes of closed session. No Gateway staff members were present nor were any of the candidates.

3. I do not know how qualified Jackson is. I have never seen the list of qualifications submitted to Personnel Board nor will they let me see that list. During the screening session, read us a list of qualifications which mentioned newspapers I've never heard of. I have seen anything she has written (other than a letter to Gateway) and I don't think Council either.

I know nothing about the "awards" McKenzie mentions. I have worked with Yakimchuk and seen what he's written and I know he's extremely qualified and competent.

Anyway, the issue at stake is not one of personalities or qualifications, it is whether Gateway staff has the right to have the major say in the selection of their editor.

4. When the petition McKenzie mentions (which took the organizers several months to acquire) was brought before Council, a councillor asked the person who presented it to talk to the Gateway staff and see if something less drastic than what he proposed, could be worked out. Discussion was left at that point and this person has yet to talk to us.

By the way, Don, how do you "fire" a volunteer staff.

The survey McKenzie speaks of was done by some commerce students as a class project in a marketing analysis (it was based primarily on the effect of our advertising). We agreed to let them finance the survey.

The 56% was not of the student body but of the survey sample which was apparently statistically representative. The 56% did not say that Gateway was "a bad paper". They said it was "unduly biased", an opinion with which we often agree and a situation we are constantly struggling against.

If "students are obviously dissatisfied with the paper" all they have to do to change it is come in and work on it. Each staff member has as much say in determining policy as any other. We have a relatively small staff (for a paper of this size) and many of our problems and mistakes are directly related to this problem.

Why, if there are so many students dissatisfied, do we see so few of them? Why have none of the present Executive or Council (who are so vocal in their criticism) never worked on the paper?

*It was an undemocratic decision.* The Council is by no means the only mechanism for student control of this paper. The most effective means of student control is the open democratic staff control of the paper's policy.

The Statement of Principles of Canadian University Press states: "That the editor of a student newspaper should be selected by the staff of the newspaper."

Not everyone can just attend a couple of meetings of Students' Council and get a vote. Anyone who works with us at any minimal task is entitled to a vote on editorial decisions, on the selection of an editor.

This is the first year the Gateway has received \$19,000 in student money. Is McKenzie implying we are financially irresponsible? Last year the total budget was \$84,510 (including costs and advertising revenue), the grant from Council was \$38,110. This year our total budget is \$60,838, \$19,938 is your money. We will probably spend less than we've been budgeted for this year.

We saved you over \$18,000. Saving that money was not easy for us. We did it by instituting a "cold type" production process with which all the Gateway staff except myself were unfamiliar. This process demands that we do much of the work the printer used to do. We put in longer hours than we ever used to. We make more typographical errors than used to appear, and the time we can spend on our news coverage has suffered. However, it also saved us, as well as the financial saving, more flexibility for imaginative layout. But we've had to work damned hard for these benefits.

*Anyone can work on the Gateway.* The conclusion to Gary Draper's analysis of Council performance this year was omitted not because it ran "contrary to established Gateway bias". It was cut because it made it much easier for me (I, personally made up that page and I cut the conclusion) to make up the page and because I thought what had been said in his article was much more specific and didn't add much to it. Unfortunately, I could not contact Gary at the time it was cut.

Gary accepted my own apology and is still on the Gateway staff. As well, the Gateway published an apology to Gary in a prominent place in the paper quoting the main point in the conclusion. I would not, myself, have written the conclusion Gary did because I thought, still think, it is irrelevant. However, in a case such as this, Gary's views take precedence over my own since he was the writer of the piece.

Few people work on Campus Lyfe. Most of the people whose by-lines appear in the paper are employed by the university as Public Relations people. In other words, most of Lyfe's "news" is verbatim university press releases.

We have refused to publish few articles this year. We have refused some which have been submitted by non-staff members which were poorly written. We have refused to publish submissions by staff members too (including myself on occasion), but in every case the staff member concerned has agreed, after discussion, that it should not be printed. We do not delete parts of any article except when we have space problems and this is, as far as possible, done in conjunction with the writer.

Who is the "present group," Don? It is my experience that the Gateway staff does not come from, nor form, one homogeneous group either politically or otherwise.

*Any editor who is chosen solely by Council without any support from the Gateway staff is a puppet editor.* I was not only appointed, I was *elected* by the Gateway staff. I owe my job to last year's staff, not to Council. Council simply ratified the staff's decision.

This year's council may "be around to exercise control." That is, if we elect the one-third of the present Executive who are running again.

*In conclusion.* What "small inbred clique", Don? I have worked for the Gateway now for one and half years. Am I already inbred? I started to work on this paper (after several years working on other student and established media) because I was dissatisfied with the news writing in it. I was elected editor last year by the staff who had worked with me and knew what my capabilities were.

If Don McKenzie is so adamant in his criticism of us why did he not make this known to Council? Why did he wait until now?

If he is upset by my performance as editor this year, why didn't he suggest to council that I be fired? He could have done it with a simple majority of council, the same majority required to appoint Jackson.

Why didn't he even write us a letter? We print all letters received except those which are undeniably inane or those which our lawyers advise are libellous. In the case of long letters, we do not print them intact unless we feel they are very good. We never cut letters except with the permission of the writers.

Why does McKenzie raise all these objections to The Gateway now? Even during the "Gazette debate" he did not criticize us so strongly but concentrated on legal technicalities.

The Gateway staff feels this is an important issue because we feel we should have a major say in the policy and direction of this paper because we work on it and know it.

We are interested in re-affirming the principle that the Gateway staff should democratically elect their editor. We do not like being dismissed by Council in ten minutes of closed debate.

Bob Beal  
Editor-in-Chief

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